

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02363 110724Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 AID-05 PC-01 /041 W

-----067855 111239Z /53

R 110700Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5469

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2363

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CM

SUBJECT: UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

1. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CAMEROON NATIONAL UNION (CNU), CAMEROON'S SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY, MET ON MAY 7 AND DECIDED ON PARTY'S LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR 28 MAY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT ORIGINALLY THERE WERE 2,918 ASPIRANTS FROM WHICH 120 CANDIDATES WERE SELECTED TO FILL THE 120 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS. THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF CANDIDATES ACCORDING TO PROVINCES ARE: CENTER SOUTH 23, EAST 6, LITTORAL 13, NORTH 36, NORTH WEST 14, WEST 18, SOUTH WEST 10. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS DESIGNATED CERTAIN PARTY STALWARTS TO PRESIDE OVER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. THEIR PRIME FUNCTION IS TO OVERSEE ELECTION PROCEDURE IN THEIR ASSIGNED PROVINCES AND TO INSURE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE AT THE POLLS FROM THE POPULACE IN SUPPORT OF THE PARTY'S CHOSEN DEPUTIES.

2. NOT MUCH ELECTION PUBLICITY OR ACTIVITY HAS BEEN OBSERVED SINCE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION DATE AND PROCEDURES WERE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY FEBRUARY, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS MUCH JOCKEYING FOR POSITION AMONG THE ALMOST 3000 PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES TO SECURE A NOMINATION. PRESIDENT AHIDJO ISSUED A DECREE ON 3 MAY EXHORTING RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TO INSURE THAT THE LIST ENDORSED BY HIM AND THE PARTY (CNU)

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BE GIVEN ENTHUSIASTIC GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. TO GUARANTEE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME GOVERNMENT AND PARTY WORKERS ARE EXPECTED TO WORK HARD TO ENCOURAGE A HIGH TURN OUT OF ELIGIBLE VOTORS TO THE POLLS ON BEHALF OF THE CNU LIST.

3. THE DISTRIBUTION OF CANDIDATES PER PROVINCE APPEARS TO BE BASED ON THE 1976 CENSUS DATA WHICH WERE USED IN THE MUNIICIPAL

ELECTIONS OF OCTOBER 1977. THE NUMERICAL SPREAD IS FAIRLY PROPORTIONAL.

4. RECENTLY GOVERNMENT SECURITY AUTHORITIES HAVE CARRIED OUT SELECTED SWEEPS OF YAOUNDE'S INDIGENOUS QUARTERS OSTENSIBLY TO IDENTIFY TAX EVADERS AND PERSONS WITHOUT VALID NATIONALITY CARDS. HOWEVER, THE TIMING OF THESE SWEEPS AND THE FACT THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED DETAINEES FOR UNC PARTY CARDS INDICATE THAT THESE RAIDS MAY BE RELATED TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS.
MITHOEFER

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Message Attributes

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